

WILLENHALL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for 1925.

MR. CHAIRMAN & GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report on the health of the Township of Willenhall during the year 1925. In the circular issued by the Ministry of Health it is required that the Report for the year 1925 shall be a "Survey" Report, and the arrangement of this Report has been prepared in conformity with the requirements of the Ministry.

NATURAL & SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area.—The area of the District is 1,277 acres.

Willenhall is situated on the Northern fringe of the Black Country, 400/450 feet above sea level, slopes towards the South-East, and is partly built on soil overlying maiden clay or clay mixed with gravel, and partly upon excavated shale, all of which are nearly impervious to water. It is about midway between Wolverhampton on the West and Walsall on the East. The inhabitants are essentially artisans, engaged in the production of locks, keys, bolts, enamelled iron wares, stampings, brass and iron castings, motor and cycle fittings, and other hardware goods, in which men, women, and young persons of both sexes are employed.

Trade during the year, considering the large amount of unemployment throughout the country, compared favourably with other districts, and shows signs of improvement.

Population.—The population at the Census, 1921, was 19,665. The estimated population for 1925 (as supplied by the Registrar General) is 21,520. This estimate is based on the adjusted 1921 figures, after allowance for the varying rates of natural increase as evidenced by the births and deaths, and of migration as indicated from other sources of information.

The population shows an increase of 1,855 over the Census, or an average annual increase of 464 for the four years.

The number of inhabited houses (1921)—3,928. The number of houses at the end of 1925 was 4,297.

Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)—4,124.

Rateable Value.—£70,928.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate.—£254.

General District Rate.—6/- per annum.

Poor Rate.—9/8 per annum.

Amount spent on outdoor relief during the year.—£3,482 19s. 2d., as compared with £3,264 3s. 4d. in 1924.

Relief of Unemployed.—£470 17s. 7d., as compared with £5,152 2s. 2d. in 1924.

Notes on the Census, 1921, in relation to Willenhall.—The population on Census night was 19,665, comprising 9,710 males and 9,955 females, an increase of 4·4 per. cent. on the previous Census, as compared with 5·4 per cent. for the whole county.

There were 5,013 persons under 12 years of age, and of these 2,508 were males and 2,505 females. Persons over 12 numbered 14,652, there being 7,202 males and 7,450 females. Of the 7,202 males, 6,496 were occupied and 706 unoccupied or retired, and of the 7,450 females, 2,445 were occupied. There were 1,025 females per 1,000 males, as compared with 1,035 females per 1,000 males in the County as a whole.

The average age of the Willenhall males was 27·7 years, and of the females 27·9. The County as a whole 28·3 and 28·8 respectively. Willenhall persons were therefore younger than those of the County.

The proportion of married women aged less than 45 was 254 per 1,000 females of all ages (County 245 per 1,000).

The excess of births over deaths in the 10 years (1911—1921) *i.e.*, the natural increase, was 2,211. The population in the same period increased only by 821, and the difference, *i.e.*, 1,390 represents the loss by war deaths outside the Country, added to the loss by migration. The loss exclusive of war deaths would have been about 1,090.

The total number of private families was 4,124. Of these there were 71 families, comprising 188 persons, occupying one room, and 246 families comprising 808 persons occupying two rooms.

	1911	1921
Living more than two to a room ...	1586	2375
Proportion per cent. to total private family population ...	8.4	12.1

Note.—The ratio of more than two persons per room was selected in the 1911 Census Reports for that and earlier years as an approximate comparative index figure for the purpose of measuring the prevalence and distribution of overcrowding conditions. Its use in the Census statistics, however, implies no judgment as to what in fact constitutes overcrowding.

Rooms per person (County of Stafford) ...	0.99
" " " Willenhall ...	0.91
Separate dwellings occupied by 1 family ...	3739
" " " " 2 families ...	185
" " " " 3 or more families	4
The increase of dwellings over 1911 was ...	4.0 per cent.
" " families " " " ... 8.4	"
The average rooms per dwelling in the County was	4.74
" " " " Willenhall	4.56
" number of persons per family in the County	4.62
" " " " Willenhall	4.74

The Census Returns show a deficiency of rooms in Willenhall in 1921 of 1,363, on the basis of England & Wales standard 1911. This would require 299 houses of 4.56 rooms each, the average Willenhall house.

OCCUPATIONS.

The principal occupations were as follows :—

	Males	Females
Mining ...	144	
*Metal Workers ...	4,406	1,137
Makers of food, drinks, and tobacco	41	55
Workers in Wood (Pattern Makers 52 males)	180	11
Builders, Bricklayers, &c. ...	144	
Makers of Textile Goods & Articles of Dress	41	55
Electrical Apparatus Makers, Fitters, &c.	25	

* Includes Lock, &c. Makers 1,228 males and 40 females, Foundry Workers 914 males, 142 females, Smiths 267, Slotters, Millers, &c., 121 males, 177 females, Tool Setters 78, Brass Finishers 95, Die Cutters 67, Grinders Polishers 98 males, 90 females, Press Workers 128 males, 380 females, Tool Makers 128, Japanners 62 females.

Willenhall holds the premier position in the county with the largest proportion of Metal Workers—612 per 1,000 males over twelve

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.—The total number of registered Births was 478 (227 males and 251 females). Of these 1 male and 3 females were illegitimate.

The Births were 40 less than in the previous year.

The Birth-rate is 22·2 per 1,000.

The following table gives the number of Births and the Birth-rates for this and the previous 5 years.

	Births.		Total.	Birth-Rate.
	Males.	Females.		
1920	290	284	574	28·6
1921	296	28	583	29·0
1922	274	251	525	25·5
1923	236	243	479	23·0
1924	283	235	518	24·4
1925	227	251	478	22·2

Deaths.—The total registered Deaths for the district were 279 (141 males and 138 females). Of these 223 (117 males and 106 females) occurred in the district and the remaining 56 (24 males and 32 females) died in Public Institutions outside the district.

The Death-rate for the year is 13·0 per 1,000.

The Deaths and Death-rate are respectively 28 and 1·2 more than the previous year.

The Deaths and Death-rates for this and the previous 5 years are as follows :—

	Deaths.		Total.	Death Rate.
	Males.	Females.		
1920	128	123	251	12·5
1921	121	110	231	11·5
1922	142	134	276	13·4
1923	169	117	286	13·8
1924	136	115	251	11·8
1925	141	138	279	13·0

Causes of Death in Willenhall U. D. 1925.

Causes of Death.				Males	Females
All Causes.				141	138
1	Enteric Fever	...	...	1	
2	Small Pox	...	...
3	Measles	...	...	1	5
4	Scarlet Fever	...	...		1
5	Whooping Cough	...	...	5	5
6	Diphtheria	...	...	1	1
7	Influenza	...	...	5	3
8	Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	1	
9	Meningococcal meningitis	...	...
10	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	14	7
11	Other Tuberculous diseases	...	...	3	5
12	Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	9	12
13	Rheumatic Fever	...	...		1
14	Diabetes	...	...		1
15	Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	8	6
16	Heart disease	...	...	13	14
17	Arterio-sclerosis	...	...
18	Bronchitis	...	...	6	4
19	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	17	12
20	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	2	2
21	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	3	
22	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	11	5
23	Appendicitis & Typhlitis	...	...		1
24	Cirrhosis of liver	...	...
25	Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	2	3
26	Puerperal sepsis	...	...		2
27	Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	...	...		1
28	Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	...	...	12	8
29	Suicide	...	...	1	1
30	Other deaths from violence	...	...	1	4
31	Other defined diseases	...	...	25	33
32	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...		1
Special Causes (included above)					
Poliomyelitis					
Polioencephalitis					
Deaths of Infants (Total under 1 year (Illegitimate				28	17
TOTAL BIRTHS				227	251
Legitimate				226	248
Illegitimate				1	3
POPULATION				21,520	

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1925.

(Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1925, while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1924. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns).

	BIRTH-RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULA- TION.	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION										RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS.		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.			
		All Causes	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping- cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 Years).	Total Deaths under One Year.	Causes of Death, certified by Medical Practitioners.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.		
England and Wales	18.3	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.13	0.03	0.15	0.07	0.32	0.47	8.4	75	92.1	6.9	1.0		
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London . . .	18.8	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.17	0.03	0.18	0.09	0.30	0.43	10.8	79	92.1	7.3	0.6		
157 Smaller Towns (1921 Ad- justed Pop'n 20,000-50,000) . .	18.3	11.2	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.02	0.14	0.06	0.31	0.38	7.6	74	93.0	5.9	1.1		
London	18.0	11.7	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.02	0.19	0.11	0.23	0.46	10.6	67	91.1	8.9	0.0		
Willenhall	22.2	13.0	0.05	0.00	0.27	0.05	0.46	0.09	0.37	0.23	33.47	94	93.6	6.4	0.0		

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.—The total Deaths of infants during the first year of life were 45 (28 males and 17 females), or 16·13 per cent. of the total Deaths at all ages. There were no deaths of illegitimate children under 1 year.

Infantile Mortality Rate.—The Infantile Mortality Rate is 94 per 1,000 births as compared with 75 per 1,000 births for England and Wales as a whole.

The Rates for this and the last five years are as follows :

	Birth Rate per 1,000.		Infantile Mortality.	
	England & Wales.	Willenhall.	England & Wales.	Willenhall.
1920	25·4	28·6	80	68
1921	22·4	29·0	83	98
1922	20·6	25·5	77	84
1923	19·7	23·0	69	81
1924	18·8	24·4	75	89
1925	18·3	22·2	75	94

Causes of Death of Infants under 1 year old.

CAUSES OF DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR.								
	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.
Congenital Debility, Malform- ation & Premature birth	16	2	2					
Bronchitis					2	1		
Broncho-Pneumonia					2			2
Convulsions					2			1
Gastro-enteritis			3	1	5	2		
Whooping Cough							1	
Meningitis								1
Measles								1
Marasmus		1			1			
Diarrhœa							1	
TOTAL ...	16	3	5	1	10	2	3	5

		Males	Females
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	1	5
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)		5	5
„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	11		5

Women dying in, or in consequence of Child-birth.

(a)—From Sepsis	...	2
(b)—From other causes	...	1
Maternal Mortality per 1,000 births	...	6·3

In the previous 5 years, 10 women lost their lives in or in connection with Child-birth, equal to a mortality of 3·7 per 1,000 births over that period.

Death-rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	0·97
„ „ other forms of „	...	0·37
„ „ Cancer	...	0·97

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Professional Nursing in the Home.—The Nursing Association is affiliated with the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses, and the Staffordshire County Nursing Association, and is supported by voluntary subscriptions and donations. Two nurses are employed, and they are available for general nursing. There is no provision for home nursing in case of infectious disease. The services of the Health Visitors, provided by the County Council, can be utilized in epidemics of Measles if required. During the year ended March 31st, 1926, the number of new patients was 269, and the number of visits paid by the Nurses 4,729.

Midwives.—Two registered Midwives practice in the district, and are under the authority of the Staffordshire County Council. This number is not sufficient to ensure satisfactory service, and in too many instances the parturient woman is dependent upon the services of unskilled handywomen. The local Council does not employ or subsidise Midwives.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.—

Name.	Situation.	Accommodation.	Attendance.	By whom Provided.
1 Child Welfare Centre	Walsall St.	Ample	Monday & Thursday	County Council.
2 School Clinic	do.	do.	Every morning 9-30—12	do.
	(Dr. attends Mon. & Thurs.) Oculist—Tuesdays.			
A Mothercraft class is held every Tuesday afternoon.				
3 Tuberculosis	Bell St. Dispensary,	Wolverhampton		do.
Women & Children—Tues., Wed., Thur. & Sat.			10-30 to 12 noon	
Men— Mon., Wed., Fri.,			5 to 7 p.m.	

SANATORIA—(a) Males ... Prestwood & Kinver
 (b) Females Yarnfield & Groundslow
 (c) Children Himley

4 Venereal Diseases, W-hampton Gen. Hospital (V.D. Dept.)
 provided by County Council.

Day Nurseries.—There are no day nurseries in the district.

Smallpox.—Willenhall is a constituent district of the South Staffordshire Conjoint Small Pox Hospital Board with the isolation Hospital at Moxley.

Other Infectious Diseases.—There is no provision for isolation of general infectious cases, but special arrangements are made by the Council in certain instances for cases to be treated at the Wolverhampton Borough Hospital.

Hospitals available for the district, but not within the district.

Wolverhampton General Hospital

Wolverhampton and District Hospital for Women

Wolverhampton and Midland Counties Eye Infirmary.

There is no Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children in the district.

Ambulance Facilities.

- (a) For infectious cases—No permanent arrangement.
- (b) For non-infectious and accidental cases a hand ambulance is available, but in serious cases the Wolverhampton Hospital ambulance can generally be obtained by telephone. Further provision for these cases is desirable.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health (part time), H. J. Dean, L.R.C.P.

Sanitary Inspector and Meat Inspector (whole time),
 S. D. Wright, Certif. Royal San. Institute.

Health Visitors and School Nurses, whole time,
 (County Council Scheme).

Miss E. A. Aspinall, C.M.B.

„ A. Kynaston, C.M.B

„ McKean, C.M.B.

Contributions are made to the salaries of all the above under the Public Health Acts or Exchequer Grants.

Mortuary.— A mortuary was provided for the town in 1923 by the conversion of a building in the old cemetery. It is centrally situated, and its provision has satisfied a long felt want.

List of Adoptive Acts, Byelaws, and Local Regulations relating to Public Health in force in the district, with date of adoption.

- (1) Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 (Part iii) Nov. 9th, 1891.
- (2) Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, 1899, June 5th, 1900.
- (3) Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 (Part 2-10 inclusive), October 7th, 1912.
- (4) Supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin (L. G. B. Order, 1910).
- (5) Private Streets Works Acts, 1892, June 5th, 1900.
- (6) Bye-laws for the prevention of nuisance arising from snow, filth, dust, ashes, and rubbish, and for the prevention of the keeping of animals on any premises so as to be injurious to health.
- (7) Bye-laws for prescribing the times for the removal or carriage through the streets of any offensive or noxious matter or liquid.
- (8) Bye-laws for providing that the vessel, receptacle, cart or carriage used therefore shall be properly constructed and covered so as to prevent the escape of any such matter or liquid.
- (9) Bye-laws for compelling the cleansing of any place whereon any such matter or liquid shall have been dropped or spilt in such removal or carriage.
- (10) Bye-laws with respect to common lodging houses.
- (11) Bye-laws with respect to slaughter houses.
- (12) Bye-laws with respect to the Willenhall Cemetery.
- (13) Bye-laws with respect to the Memorial Park.
- (14) New Streets and Buildings, 1924.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases — During the year 134 notifications of infecticous disease were received, viz : Scarlet Fever 48, Diphtheria 25, Erysipelas 10, Pneumonia and Influenzal Pneumonia 41, Encephalitis Lethargica 2, Ophthalmia Neonatorum 1, Puerperal Sepsis 5, Typhoid Fever 1, Paratyphoid 1.

The following tables give the details of the cases notified and of deaths recorded.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1925.

DISEASE.	Under 1 year											Total	Cases remvd. to Hospital
	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 and upwards.		
Scarlet Fever ...	1	1	3	6	17	11	5	4				48	3
Diphtheria ...	1		3		7	3	2	8	1			25	3
Erysipelas ...	1							2	3	4		10	
Encephalitis Lethargica					1			1				2	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1											1	
Puerperal Sepsis ...								5				5	5
Pneumonia ...		1	1		10	1	1	6	7	8	3	38	
Influenzal Pneumonia ...								2		1		3	
Typhoid & Paratyphoid ...								1	1			2	1

Table of Deaths from the Notifiable Diseases during the year 1925.

Scarlet Fever ...					1							1	
Typhoid Fever ...									1			1	
Pneumonia (primary) ...					2			1	2	5	2	12	
Diphtheria ...		1	1									2	
Encephalitis Lethargica...					1							1	
Puerperal Fever ...								2				2	

Table showing the number of cases notified and deaths from the following infectious diseases during this and the previous 5 years.

	Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Encephalitis		Puerperal Sepsis		Typhoid and Paratyphoid		Erysipelas		Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	
	N.	D.	N.	D.	N.	D.	N.	D.	N.	D.	N.	D.	N.	D.
1920 ...	12	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0		5		1	
1921 ...	30	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0		0		4	
1922 ...	84	0	6	2	0	0	1	1	2		2		3	
1923 ...	58	0	10	0	1	1	2	2	0		3		2	
1924 ...	50	0	38	2	1	0	0	0	1		5		2	
1925 ...	48	1	25	2	2	1	5	2	2	1	10		1	

Scarlet Fever.—Forty-eight cases were notified from 45 houses, and one death occurred, being the first death from this disease in the district for 10 years. Scarlet Fever was very prevalent in 1922 (84 cases), whilst in the last 3 years the average has been about 53 cases per year. The type of disease in recent

years has been mild, and cases first discovered in the "peeling" stage not uncommon, the early symptoms being so slight that the disease was not suspected by the parents, and thus infection is often spread through contact with healthy persons.

Three cases were removed to the Wolverhampton Boro' Hospital owing to the difficulty of isolating them in their own homes, or to the unfavourable home conditions.

Diphtheria.—Twenty-five cases notified from 24 houses, and 2 deaths. Of the 25 cases, 15 were positive bacteriologically, 5 negative, and in 5 no swab was submitted for examination. Three cases were removed to the Wolverhampton General Hospital. Antitoxin which is supplied by the Council to medical practitioners requiring it, was used in practically all cases. Diphtheria was prevalent in 1924 (38 cases), being part of a general wave throughout the country. The Schick and Dick tests in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever respectively, have not been used.

Encephalitis.—Two cases and one death. One of the cases was notified in January and the other in November. In the period 1920-1925, five cases of this disease were notified with 3 deaths

Puerperal sepsis.—Five cases, all of which were removed to the Wolverhampton General Hospital. In one instance, a case of Scarlet Fever had been notified from the same household a fortnight previously, but had been removed to Hospital, and the bedding, etc., disinfected. There were two deaths from Puerperal sepsis. In the period 1920-1925, nine cases were notified and six deaths recorded.

Typhoid and Paratyphoid.—One of each of these was notified. The origin of the case of Typhoid was quite obscure. He was an ex-soldier and locksmith, and was admitted to Hospital suffering from blood-poisoning, the result of a cut finger, and was subsequently notified as suffering from Typhoid. The case terminated fatally. The case of Paratyphoid recovered. There was no bacteriological test in the latter case.

Two cases of Typhoid Fever were notified in 1922. Of these, one was removed to Hospital, and after being under observation for a time was discharged, the diagnosis not being confirmed. The other case was treated at home and recovered completely. The Widal test was not used. A case notified in 1924 was also removed to the Wolverhampton General Hospital and recovered. The diagnosis was not confirmed by the Widal test.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—One case. Received treatment at the Wolverhampton Eye Infirmary. Both eyes affected. Recovered completely without impairment of vision.

Small-pox.—No case of Small-pox has occurred in this district for many years. No primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations have been performed by the M. O. H. under the P.H. (Small-pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

From figures supplied by the Vaccination Officer it appears that only 28·3 per cent. of the children born in the district in 1924 were vaccinated.

LABORATORY WORK.

Bacteriological Examinations.—Under arrangements made by the County Council, examinations are carried out in the special department of the Wolverhampton General Hospital by Dr. Menton, the County Bacteriologist, and full advantage was taken of this provision during the year. The following examinations with results were made :—

		Positive.	Negative.	Total.
For Diphtheria	... ..	15	53	68
For Tuberculosis	... ..	1	9	10
Widal test for Typhoid	... ..	0	1	1

Pneumonia and Influenzal Pneumonia.—Forty-one cases were notified during the year. The notified cases and deaths for this and the previous five years, are as follows :—

	Cases notified (Primary and Influenzal)		Deaths (Pneumonia, all forms)	
1925	...	41	...	29
1924	...	36	..	21
1923	...	46	..	30
1922	...	67	...	35
1921	...	18	...	21
1920	...	21	...	34

There were no notifications of Malaria, Dysentery or Trench Fever under the Regulations of the 7th January, 1919.

Cancer.—Twenty-one, or 7·5 per cent of the total deaths registered were due to Cancer. The deaths from this cause for this and the previous 5 years, are as follows :—

Year.	Deaths.	Per centage of total deaths.
1925	21	7·5
1924	28	11·1
1923	19	6·6
1922	27	9·7
1921	20	8·7
1920	27	10·7

The Health Visitors have a supply of leaflets on the subject of Cancer, for use at the Welfare Centre and in their talks to mothers.

CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

Whooping Cough was prevalent in the district chiefly in the first quarter of the year. Ten deaths are attributed to this disease.

Measles.—In the same quarter there were numerous cases of a mild type of measles characterized by arash, slight redness of the eyes but with little catarrh. In the second quarter, Measles of a severer type was epidemic. There were six deaths from Measles during the year.

Influenza was prevalent in the first quarter of the year, but of a milder type than formerly. There were 8 deaths from Influenza (equal to a rate of 0·37 per 1,000), as compared with 11, 4, 18, 3 and 13 deaths in the five previous years.

Respiratory Diseases (including influenza but excluding Tuberculosis).—Fifty-one deaths occurred from these diseases, equal to 18·3 per cent of the total deaths from all causes.

Diarrhœa, &c., (under 2 years).—This disease was prevalent, and the number of deaths registered from this cause was 16. Of these, 12 died during the first year of life. In the period 1920-1924, the deaths were 5, 11, 3, 4 and 2 respectively. School intimations of disease is in general use throughout the town, and much assistance is derived from this source of information. No schools were recommended for closure on public health grounds to prevent the spread of infectious disease. Children suffering from infectious disease or from infected homes, are excluded from school for specified periods on the certificate of the M. O. H (Memorandum on Closure and Exclusion from School, 1925).

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

Particulars of the new cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease in the area, are as follows :—

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmon-ary.		Non Pul-monary.		Pulmon-ary.		Non Pul-monary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								1
1	1	1	3				2	2
5	4	4	1	1				1
10	3	3	1	3		1		
15	4	5			1	1		
20	4	3				2		
25	7	6			3		1	
35	4	0		1	2			1
45	2	2			6	3		
55	2	0			2			
65 and upwards.	1	1						
Totals	32	25	5	5	14	7	3	5

There were 4 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and one from another form of the disease (included in the above total deaths), which had not been notified under the Regulations prior to death. Of the 4 Pulmonary cases, 2 were certified after inquests, the persons not being under treatment before death ; 1 died in an Asylum, and the Medical Officer reported "the fact her death was due to Tuberculosis was not definitely ascertained until the P. M." In the remaining cases, the medical practitioners were communicated with, and satisfactory explanations received. There is no evidence of neglect on the part of medical practitioners in notifying Tuberculosis.

No action has been taken during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

Table showing new cases of Tuberculosis, and deaths from the disease in the previous 5 years :—

		New Cases.				Deaths.			
		Pul-monary.		Non Pul-monary.		Pul-monary.		Non Pul-monary.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1920	...	22		5		8	4	1	3
1921	...	16	7	—	—	13	9	1	1
1922	...	27	23	6	9	13	16	2	4
1923	...	19	18	7	4	16	9	7	2
1924	...	4	10	3	1	7	13	2	1

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.—The district is supplied with water from the mains of the Wolverhampton Corporation, and with few exceptions all the houses are connected. The supply was constant and of good quality. About 50 bungalows and temporary dwellings obtain their supply from other sources (springs).

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.—Practically every street in the town is sewered, and the Disposal Works continue to work satisfactorily. A few houses in the outlying parts of the town are not at present sewered.

Excrement and Refuse Disposal.—This work is done by the District Council's workmen under the supervision of the Surveyor. The excreta is deposited on agricultural land away from occupied premises, and the dry refuse is deposited on tips. There is no destructor. The Rose Hill tip cannot be said to be altogether

satisfactory owing to its proximity to houses, although of late considerably more care has been taken to prevent any nuisance, and the tip is now used chiefly for dry house refuse. The question of further means to avoid any nuisance from this source or the discontinuance of the tip, I understand, is under consideration by the Council.

Sanitary Accommodation.—Details of the sanitary and ash accommodation are given in the table of the Sanitary Inspector's Report. The conversions are proceeding on lines to get the whole of the remaining privies abolished during the next twelve months.

Schools.—There are 8 elementary schools in the district. These are all supplied with water closets, and their water supply is from the Wolverhampton Corporation mains.

HOUSING.

General Housing conditions in the area.—The district being largely an artisan one, the houses mostly belong to the cottage type, and many of them have reached the limit of their natural life.

It is estimated that at least 300 more houses are required to house the existing population,—this does not take into account those houses which are unfit for occupation but cannot at present be closed by reason of the shortage, or the natural increase of the population.

Measures taken or contemplated to meet the shortage.—179 houses are in course of erection (some occupied), and the Council contemplate the erection of 86 more houses in the immediate future.

Overcrowding.—The extent of overcrowding is still considerable. It is not only that the cubic space is insufficient, but many cases are discovered where the lack of accommodation is such that the necessary separation of the sexes is impossible. Cases were also found where Tuberculous persons were obliged to occupy the same room with other members of the family. Very little can be done in such cases under present circumstances owing to the shortage of houses.

The census returns of 1921 showed a deficiency of 1,363 rooms, approximately equal to 300 houses of 4.56 rooms each, the average Willenhall house, and the number of dwellings erected during recent years has not reduced this deficiency and kept pace with the growth of population. The overcrowding is not less than it was at the time of the census, and the only remedy is the erection of more houses, a measure which the Council is pushing forward as speedily as possible.

Principal Cases of Overcrowding during the year.—The principal cases have occurred in the 1 or 2 bed-roomed houses. Eleven gross cases were abated apart from others in which some rearrangements were made, such as sending some of the children to sleep with relatives or friends in less overcrowded houses.

Fitness of Houses.

(a). *General standard of housing in the area* about 90% artisan type, many have reached the limit of their natural life.

(b) *General character of defects found to exist in unfit houses.*—Defective lighting, ventilation, dampness, confined area, paving, etc.

(c). *How far defects are due to lack of proper management and supervision by owners or to acts of waste or neglect by tenants.*—Numerous defects were due to neglect by tenants, but many of the houses are old and difficulty is often found in getting owners to keep them in repair.

Housing Statistics for the year and general action taken as regards unfit houses are set forth in tabular form in the report of the Sanitary Inspector appended herewith.

Bye-laws —The bye-laws, New Streets and Buildings were revised and adopted during 1924.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

HENRY J. DEAN.

Willenhall,

April 24th, 1926.

Sanitary Inspector's Report

for the year ended December 31st, 1925.

—o—

SANITARY INSPECTORS' OFFICE,

TOWN HALL, WILLENHALL,

February, 1926.

MR. CHAIRMAN & GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with the order of the Minister of Health, I beg to report upon the work and improvements made during the twelve months ending December, 1925. The report is based upon the instructions issued by the Minister of Health.

The factors which largely contribute to the health of a district may be summed up in one word "Housing," and in those districts which are centres of industrial work, progress in improving and re-modelling old types of dwellings occupied by the artisan class is necessarily slow, but it is certainly better to-day than under those conditions which existed at the time of the passing into law of the Public Health Act, 1875, which conferred upon Local Authorities great powers for promoting improvements in raising the standard of the public health. The past year closes the record of 50 years sanitary progress under that Act, and no doubt the next few years will see the re-modelling of our Public Health Acts on a more uniform basis throughout the country.

The improvements that have been striven for during the past year are—

1.—The provision of more new houses to meet the pressing demand by families who are compelled to live under conditions that are prejudicial to their own health and their children.

This factor in our work is and will be one of the most pressing for some years to come, unless financial help is given by the State, or private enterprise more freely undertakes to meet the demand for the needs of the working classes by building houses at a rent that can be paid by the average artisan class to-day.

The number of houses erected this year 1925 (or in course of erection) was 179. This includes houses erected by the Local Authority and private enterprise. While this addition has been helpful, the number of applicants who have applied for houses still shows the urgent need of more houses, and consequently that considerable overcrowding of existing dwellings still exists.

2nd.--HOUSING INSPECTION. This work and inquiries into complaints relating to nuisances in or about the dwelling house takes up a considerable portion of time, and the greater part of the housing inspections have been carried out under the Public Health Act, 1875. The Housing Act, 1925, will add considerably to the work already to be carried out under the Public Health Acts.

3rd.--THE ABOLITION OF EXISTING PRIVIES AND INSANITARY ASHPITS. Next to "Housing," one of the most necessary reforms is the total abolition of the old privy type of closets. No one who is familiar with these objectionable methods for the disposal of house refuse, etc., desires to retain them any longer than they can help, but here again legal and financial matters hinder the work of progress in getting these nuisances or insanitary conveniences abolished and the provision of water closets and covered portable ash receptacles for each house, in place of the old type of closet and ashpit.

4th.--SCAVENGING. This work is under the supervision of the Surveyor's department, and any complaints coming under my observation during routine work are reported daily to the dept. Very few complaints or requests from occupiers were received during the year, and the work of clearing away insanitary privies, of which there are about 80 that can be brought into the foul sewer, will possibly be completed before next year, and the provision of ashbins in place of ashpits is gradually being proceeded with.

There is no refuse destructor in the town, and all house refuse is removed to tips on the outskirts of the town.

5th.--CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. As will be seen from the table, the closet accommodation in this district consists of a large proportion of waste water closets. This type of closet was put in cottage property in the early period of conversion from the privy system, but this type of closet is little better if any than the old privy type of closet, and from my experience of them and those of other towns, the system is one that has had its day, and wherever possible these should be taken out and wash down water closets fixed in their place, especially is this the case in common yards or where two or more houses have the use of one closet. The number of choked closets and drains released by our men during the year is considerable, and in many instances is due to carelessness on the part of the occupiers who allow foreign articles, tins, rags, pieces of brick, etc., to be thrown down by young children. No W.W.C. have been put in for several years.

6th.--INFECTIOUS CASES AND DISINFECTION OF ROOMS, ETC. The work entailed by visiting infectious cases varies each year. This year 586 visits were made for enquiries into cases of infectious

disease. In 65 cases the premises were overcrowded or occupied by more than one family. There was no serious outbreak of infectious cases of any special character during the year.

A Washington Lyons steam Disinfector is used for disinfecting clothing and bedding after infectious cases, rooms are fumigated by using Sulphur candles or Formalin lamps.

Walls are stripped and re-coloured and cleansed in cases where the conditions render it desirable

The disinfector was in use on 39 days, 92 rooms were fumigated, and 313 articles of bedding, etc., were disinfected by steam at the disinfecting station.

7th.—INSPECTION OF PREMISES WHERE FOOD, ETC., IS PREPARED. The work of food inspection and the premises where food is prepared forms a considerable item in the duties to be carried out, and with the regulations for meat inspection which came into force in April, 1925, a higher standard of cleanliness, and purity of the articles retailed, should be aimed at as the regulations become better appreciated by traders who come under their supervision.

MILK SUPPLY. A large portion of the milk supplies are brought into this area from producers in adjoining districts, or within a few miles of the town, and the quality may be said to be satisfactory. The number of cowsheds in the district is 4, number of cows kept averages about 20. No samples were taken for analysis, as this work is carried out by the County Inspector under the Food and Drugs' Act. No veterinary inspection of the cows has been undertaken for tuberculosis in the udder or other organs up to the present.

There is one dairy, the premises were not suitable or satisfactory and new premises were erected in accordance with modern requirements in which to carry on the work. The new premises were taken over in February, 1926.

The cowsheds are all situated on the outskirts of the district, and in each case land is available for turning out the cows.

COWSHEDS,* DAIRIES, ETC. Seven defects were reported upon, and in one case a portion of the cowsheds was unsuitable, and the disposal of the manure was unsatisfactory for the want of a proper manure receptacle. The milk retailers' premises, of which there were 31 on the register at the end of the year, have been frequently visited. The conditions under which milk is stored or kept for sale in open vessels in many of the premises is not conducive to a clean and pure milk supply for retailing to the consumer. The provision of suitable premises where dairy produce alone could be retailed, would be a great improvement on the present method of retailing milk from premises which also deal in other goods.

LICENCES FOR GRADED MILK. No application was made during 1925 and no licences were in force. No bacteriological examinations of milk were made during the year by the Local Authority.

MEAT. The Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, came into force April 1st, 1925, and the details of the inspections made are shewn in the table. The regulations are being carried out satisfactorily on the whole, but the exposure of meat in retail shops by some of the retailers has necessitated frequent cautions being made to see that the requirements of the regulations are being carried out. The stalls retailing meat on market days in the Public Market have been regularly inspected, and any breach of the Regulations brought to the notice of the stallholder.

A considerable amount of home-killed meat is prepared and dressed at the Public Abattoir, at Wolverhampton, and brought ready for sale to the local retailers, this custom having its origin during the war time period, some butchers preferring this method to the additional costs incurred by bringing live cattle to their own slaughter-houses for slaughter. There are 13 slaughter-houses in the district.

2 of the 13 slaughter-houses kill and prepare pigs only
 10 " " " " " cattle, sheep, etc.
 1 is used occasionally.

The quality of the meat killed in this district is of a good standard, and in no instance has it been necessary to condemn the whole of any carcase during the past year at private slaughter-houses by reason of disease. The outbreaks of foot and mouth disease caused a shrinkage of slaughtering at the local slaughter-houses, this work being carried out at the abattoir in the neighbouring town of Wolverhampton. There is no public abattoir in the area of this district, and the regulations dealing with "marking of meat after inspection" at the time of slaughter are not in operation.

DISPOSAL OF DISEASED MEAT. Diseased carcasses are disposed of by arrangement with a local firm who dispose of the trade refuse from shops, etc., and render all waste into various by-products—manure, bones, fats, etc.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES		January	December
	1920	1925	1925
Number on register	14	13	13
Licensed ...	3	3	3
Registered ...	11	10	10
Total	14	13	13

Inspection of slaughter-houses	...	...	348 visits
„ of these when work was in operation			85 „
„ after usual office hours, Sundays, etc.			12 „
„ of retail shops where meat is sold, (other than butchers' shops)	...		5 „

Slaughtering of pigs by cottagers for own consumption or partly for sale.

Visits after "notice" given under the regulations			97
Number of pigs inspected	...	...	166
„ of cases in which the carcase was diseased or unsound	...	...	Nil

In a few cases it was necessary to destroy the liver or lungs owing to local disease.

UNSOUND FOOD DESTROYED.

- 5 pigs (3 suffocated in transit by rail)
- 2 cows' livers and lungs diseased
- 2 fowl diseased
- 4 boxes of tomatoes unsound
- 26 tins of preserved fruit, fish, milk, etc.

Magistrates' orders were obtained for the destruction of the pigs, and in the other cases the various articles were surrendered and destroyed after being brought to my notice.

BAKEHOUSES. The number of bakehouses in the district is 14, one is void. The condition of the bakehouses is satisfactory except in one case; these premises are old and dilapidated, and only used for the preparation of light articles over a gas cooker.

There are no offensive trades in this area—and at present no By-laws have been adopted to deal with "Fried fish shops." These are on the whole fairly well constructed, and in most cases proper hoods are provided over the stoves to take the fumes away from the shop and dwelling house.

SMOKE ABATEMENT AND EFFLUVIA NUISANCES. Owing to the industrial character of this area, and the nature of the work carried on, smoke nuisances are difficult to deal with; but with improved methods of working and the increased use of gas, or gas plant, and electric power, some improvement has taken place within recent years.

The effluvia nuisance from the gas plant at Messrs. Dykes' Stamping Works has been considerably reduced by raising the exhaust shaft about 30ft., and taking it further away from the premises situate in the vicinity of the generating plant. Few complaints have been received respecting other smoke nuisances, and steps have been taken to reduce or abate the nuisance in these cases.

The character of the trades carried on in this district is chiefly the manufacture of locks and keys, stampings, etc.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES AND HOUSES LET IN LODGING. By-laws are in force regulating Common Lodging Houses. There is one Common Lodging House in the area, registered for 37 males. This is visited at regular periods, and the premises except for minor defects are kept in a reasonable condition. One disused licensed house is now used as a house let in lodgings, and has accommodation for 11 single men. No By-laws are in force in this district for houses let in lodgings.

SCHOOLS. Frequent inspections of these have been made to see that the sanitary condition of the drains, etc., are satisfactory. The schools in each case are provided with water closets.

There are 8 elementary schools in the town, and the sanitary arrangements in each case are satisfactory.

VANS. The presence of van dwellers in this district has been limited to a small number, at present there are four families using this mode of dwelling, and these have been kept under observation, and in the case of two families notices to remove the vans are outstanding.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS. Proceedings were taken in one case during the year for the non-compliance of the Statutory Notice. The case was withdrawn on payment of the costs, the necessary work having been carried out and the nuisance abated.

NUISANCE CAUSED BY THE IMPROPER STORAGE OF TRADE REFUSE AND STABLE MANURE.

Preliminary Notices.—398 Preliminary Notices were served during the year, and 206 were complied with.

Statutory Notices.—110 were served and 51 complied with.

TABLES. The following tables give particulars of the work carried out and inspections made during the year under the various Acts and Regulations as required.

TABLE A.

	Inspections.	Defects or Nuisances.	Preliminary Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Notices com. with	
					Prelim.	Statut'ry
Dwelling Houses—						
Roof, walls inside, etc. ...	192	79	61	16	36	6
Chimney ...	15	12	8	3	7	
Dilapidated ...	60	15	11	7	9	
Guttering ...	82	48	27	8	18	4
Re-point walls ...	17	6	3	4	2	
Verminous ...	11	7	7		7	
Overcrowded ...	36	15	14		6	3
Unfit ...	16	4	4		2	
Schools ...	31					
Dairies, etc. ...	60	7	7	2	4	1
Factories & Workshops ...	69	22	22		10	
Bakehouses ...	31	4	4		3	
Slaughterhouses ...	348	11	11	1	9	
Common Lodging Houses ...	24	2	2		2	
Drainage—						
Choked W.C's. ...	55	19	18	2	14	2
„ W.W.C. & Tipper ...	201	77	65	21	44	15
Defective Drains ...	114	25	23	5	15	
Other Defs. in W.C's. ...	71	10	10	2	3	1
Defective Ashpits ...	60	18	15	20	9	7
„ Privies ...	60	29	16	24	9	6
Want of Bins ...	137	110	42	31	22	18
Trade Refuse ...	80	18	18	4	17	4
Pigs, Fowl, etc. ...	59	25	25	3	14	3
Horses & Stables ...	20	9	9	2	8	2
Smoke ...	15	3	3		2	
Water ...	10	1	1		1	
Paving ...	17	22	10		3	
Sundry ...	91	15	13	7	9	5
Vans ...	20	5	3	7		4
Fish Shops ...	8	1	1		1	

TABLE B.

Improvements and other work carried out during 1925.

Dwelling Houses :—

Defective roofs, inside walls repaired, etc.	...	108
„ eaves guttering renewed or repaired	...	57
Walls repointed, damp, etc.	... ..	8
Premises overcrowded	... ..	11
„ verminous (occupier)	... ..	11
Houses unfit, closing orders issued	... ..	1
„ taken down, unfit or for works extension	...	5

Drainage work :—

Water closets in place of priyies and waste water closets, etc.	75
Waste water closets taken out	... .. 17
Choked water closets and deft. tipper	... .. 98
„ water closets and drains	... .. 56

Privies and ashpits abolished :—

Number of privies abolished	... .. 51
„ ashpits abolished	.. ... 28
Ashpits repaired	.. ... 8

Ashbins provided (not including ashbins for the new houses) 223

Schools

Cowsheds, dairies, etc. 3

Factories and workshops 13

Bakehouses 3

Common Lodging House and House let in Lodgings ... 1

Slaughterhouses 17

Trade refuse removed 24

Animals, pigs, fowl, etc. 20

Smoke nuisances 1

Water service defective 1

Paving of yards defective 10

Fried fish shops 2

Sundry defects 27

Vans removed (occupied as dwelling houses) 3

Total ... **882**

TABLE C.

Housing Statistics for the Year 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year—

(a)	Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	179
(b)	With State assistance under the Housing Acts	}
	By the Local Authority	
	By other bodies or persons	
		156
		23
	Total	179

I—Unfit Dwelling Houses. Inspection.

(1)	Total Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	420
(2)	Number inspected and recorded under the Housing Acts	24
(3)	Number inspected and found to be dangerous, etc.	6
(4)	Number inspected and found not to be in all respects, etc.	249

II—Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	92
--	---	----

III—Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	5
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice	0
	(a) by owners	5
	(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	0
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	0

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	211
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
	(a) by owners	42
	(b) by Local Authority	0

C. Proceedings under sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1)	Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	1
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	0
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(5)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0

TABLE D.
Factories and Workshops.

Sixty-nine inspections of Factories and Workshops were made during the year 1925, and 26 defects were found in the course of the inspections or reported upon by the Factory Inspector. 12 written notices were served upon the occupier, and 14 verbal notices to the occupier respecting limewashing, etc., were reported.

Notices received from the Factory Inspector—

Sanitary and other defects	...	...	4	
New workshops or occupiers	...	...	8	Total 12

Notices issued for defects—

Factories	7 notices	Complied with	5
Workshops	5 „	„	2
Verbal	14 „	„	6

Particulars of the defects—

Walls of factory or workshop to be limewashed	...	15
Men's water closets, no proper light (windows)	...	1
„ „ not screened	...	1
Women's closets not screened	...	1
Choked drains	...	1
Smoke from varnish house	...	1
Nuisance from trade refuse	...	1
Keeping fowl in or near workshop	...	2
Storage of manure	...	2
Smoke nuisance	...	1

Bakehouses—No. on the register, 14	void 1	occupied 13
Workshops on the register	...	approximately 202
Factories on the register	...	79

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	28	3	
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	41	9	
Workplaces (other than Out- workers premises			
Total ...	69	12	

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES

Particulars. (1)	No. of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H. M. Inspector. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:— *</i>				
Want of cleanliness	15	9		
Want of ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors ...				
Other nuisances	8	4		
Sanitary accommodation—	1			
Insufficient	1			
Unsuitable or defective ...	1			
Not separate for sexes ...				
<i>Offences under the Factory or Workshop Acts:—</i>				
Illegal occupation of under-ground bakehouses (s. 101).				
Other offences				
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921. ...				
Total ...	26	13		

*Including those specified in sections, 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES, SECTION 108 ... Nil

TABLE E.

Sanitary Accommodation in the district, year ending 1925.

Number of wash-down water closets	...	...	2,035
„ waste water closets	...	...	1,688
„ privies	...	...	121
„ ashpits (a) covered	...	...	} 776
(b) open (less than 100 of these)	...	...
„ ashbins	...	...	2,193

Record of progress in privy conversion, etc., the past five years.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Total
Number of privies abolished	39	80	43	83	51	296
„ ashpits	13	25	34	45	28	145
„ waste water closets taken out ...	2	7	16	7	17	49
„ water closets in place of privies ..	52	114	46	86	75	373
„ ashbins in place of ashpits, and re- newals of ashbins worn out ...	51	54	72	121	223	521

The number of privies still in use is 121, of these 80 can be abolished and connected to the foul sewer, the remainder are cottages situated in areas where the premises cannot be connected to the sewer—by reason of their situation or distance from the foul sewer.

I am, Sir and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

S. D. WRIGHT,

Sanitary Inspector.

